

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

September 17, 2003  
Maricopa Association of Governments Office  
Cholla Room  
Phoenix, Arizona

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ken Sowers, Avondale  
\*Phil Marcotte, Buckeye  
\*Mike Tibbett, Carefree  
Bob Lee, Cave Creek  
A - Alex Banachowski, Chandler  
\*Jeff Sterling, El Mirage  
\*Unappointed, Fountain Hills  
\*Unappointed, Gila Bend  
Robert Carlston for Jo Rene DeVeau, Gila  
River Indian Community  
A - Ray Patten, Gilbert  
Bill Griffith for Deborah Mazoyer  
Glendale  
Steve Burger, Goodyear  
Chuck Ransom, Litchfield Park

Orion Goff, Mesa  
Armando Rivas, Paradise Valley  
\*David Nakagawara, Peoria  
David McCarthy for Rick Doell, Phoenix  
Tim Wegner, Queen Creek  
Anthony Floyd for David Potter,  
Scottsdale  
Randy Westacott for Forrest Fielder,  
Surprise  
Roger Vermillion temporary  
representative unappointed, Tempe  
Mario Rochin, Tolleson  
\*Skip Blunt, Wickenburg  
Bob Cooperider, Youngtown  
Tom Ewers, Maricopa County  
Rus Brock, Home Builders Association

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.  
A-Those members participating via audioconference  
V-Those members participating via videoconference

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Larry Kinney, PhD, Senior Researcher  
for the Southwest Energy Efficiency  
Project  
Robert Barkley, Nomadics Inc.  
Brian O'Donnell, Southwest Gas  
Bob Palmer Southwest Gas  
Dave Fincher Southwest Gas  
Kennith & Mike Grise, Exterior Stucco  
Consulting)

Don Baird, Sun Systems Inc.  
Michael J. Cameron, ABS Inspectors  
Group  
Charlie Gohman, Arizona Energy Office  
David Lunn, Gallagher & Kennedy  
Michelle Green, MAG  
Constance Kish, MAG

1. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Introductions

Members of the Committee introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 13, 2003

Ken Sowers moved to accept the minutes and Steve Burger seconded the motion. Mr. Lee asked if there were any comments prior to taking a vote. Mr. Lee noted that in the first sentence on page 4 it should read AZBO, not WBO. It was noted that David Eisenberg's name was spelled wrong on the first page where attendees are listed. It should read David not Davis. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the minutes as amended passed unanimously.

4. Call to the Public

Mr. Lee noted that a representative of Premier industries was advised of an opportunity to speak to the Committee during this agenda item and asked if anyone was in the room to represent the company. No one spoke and Mr. Lee then opened the floor to questions from the audience.

Bob Palmer from Southwest Gas came forward to discuss the instillation of hot water heaters. He provided an information bulletin from CSA International regarding Labels on Flammable Vapor Ignition Resistance Water heaters. He then explained that he is trying to determine how many of the municipalities are going to implement placing tags at the dryer vent indicating the vent exceeded the code they were using, like the City of Glendale was doing. This information he continued, is necessary so SWG could put a plan together if it was apparent this would impact them largely or not.

Bob suggested that the Committee try to make this a valley wide solution.

Rus Brock said that the Homebuilders Association of Central Arizona (HBACA) has been talking to the City of Phoenix to work on this because some dryers were testing ok at 14+ the HBACA are also using a tag that is permanently affixed at the vent in the City of Phoenix.

The Southwest Gas representative then stated that the issue is that once a new customer moves out and a second owner moves in, how do we know where to install the vent?

Bob referred to the Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS 9-476. subsequent owner) that states, “C. If a person has constructed a building or an addition to a building without obtaining a building permit, a city or town shall not require a subsequent owner to obtain a permit for the construction or addition done by the prior owner before issuing a permit for a building addition except that nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the enforcement of an applicable ordinance or code or provision

Bob referred to a book that he thought might be useful to people. The book is entitled “Building Codes for a Small Planet”. Bob suggested that it might be a useful reference for people.

Bob then discussed the truncated dome issue regarding ADA ramps Bob stated that he had made an inquiry of the Attorney General to see if the truncated dome requirement for curb ramps was actually required. He added that they referred him to a local ADA group that confirmed that it was but couldn't produce any documentation that actually said it was. He then provided a link to a website that might be helpful [www.know-the-ADA.com](http://www.know-the-ADA.com)

Bob then asked people to respond to the question regarding deterioration of conductors due to ambient temperatures so that the technical groups can address the issue.

Bob Stated that the Arizona Department of Revenue has a requirement that contractors that are from out of state or that are new to the State have post a bond. Contractors, he explained, that have been in business for more than one year are exempt and get a form from the Arizona Department of Revenue. The value of the construction must be \$50,000 or more for this to apply.

##### 5. Increasing Energy Efficiency in New Buildings in the Southwest: Energy Codes and Best Practices.

Mr. Larry Kinney, PhD is a Senior Researcher for the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project. Mr. Kinney presented his research on the Attic Duct problem and the implications with respect to building codes.

Mr. Kinney provided some background information on the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project. He indicated that their interest is in policy, one of the policies is to review building codes to see how they impact energy efficiency.

He referred to a report entitled “The New Mother Lode: The Potential for More Efficient Electricity Use in the Southwest”. He then provided statistics regarding some of the cost savings and reduction that they expect to see as from this program. (See the copy of presentation sent with materials for the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.)

David McCarthy asked if it would be appropriate to air condition the attic space.

Mr. Kinney said that it would not because of the r-value in the roof and the r-value in the ducts you might end up with defacto air conditioning of the attic if the ducts are leaky.

Mr. McCarthy then asked about moisture as an issue.

Bob asked if that is a problem in Phoenix.

Mr. Kinney replied that it usually has to do with winter conditions and added that this is less of a problem in Phoenix.

Mr. Kinney then reiterated the goal of the organization, which is to examine options for saving energy, essentially to do research and share wisdom.

Bob then asked if there is an issue with why an attic was ventilated, adding that planners typically like colored roofs as opposed to white.

Robert then asked about powered ventilation.

Larry responded by stating that there are two limits. He said that a 15% efficiency fan might be ok but he also stated that he has not looked at that particular issue.

Charlie Gohman of the Arizona Energy office interjected by saying that you never power vent an attic because you end up sucking air-conditioned air out of your house and he added that it also might create issues with combustible appliances.

Robert then asked about vapor barriers against the ceiling.

Charlie responded by stating that you never use them because if moisture is in your house a vapor barrier can prevent drying.

Mr. Kinney finished his presentation by stating that his contact information is on the last slide.

6. Presentation on Determining the In-Place Strength of Concrete Using the “Maturity Method”

Robert Barkley of Nomadics Construction Labs discussed the benefits and limitations of using the Maturity Method to determine the in-place strength of concrete. Mr. Barkley then provided information on IntelliRock in the form of a booklet, which is available from Constance or Michelle upon request. Mr. Barkley also referred people to a website [www.intellirock.com](http://www.intellirock.com) for further information. A copy of this presentation is transmitted with the materials for the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting for your information.

7. Permits Issued by Private Entities for Hot Water Heaters

Bob updated the committee by informing them that the money for the permit goes to the contractor, not the jurisdiction.

8. Solar Hot Water Heaters

Anthony Floyd requested a minor amendment to the first sentence of bullet point number six of the language that was approved by this committee. The purpose of the amendment, he said, was to have the committee consider the installment of a solar hot water heater the same as the instillation of a regular hot water heater.

There was some discussion about the issue with Bob stating that the new language appeared to be more restrictive; Alex said that it could be problematic if the language is dictating the fee a city charges. Bob recommended that the language be left as it is.

9. Update on State Plumbing Commission

No update at this point.

10. Update Survey of Code Adoption

No change at this point

11. Updated MAG Building Codes Committee Membership

12. Topics for Future Agendas

Bob mentioned that Brian Juedes, a structural engineer/architect would be in to talk about post-tension slabs.

13. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on a different date, October 14, 2003 at 2 pm in the Cholla Room. Mario Rochin made the motion to adjourn, Alex seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.